

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139-E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman, Sub-Committee on Trade
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Wally Herger
Ranking Member, Sub-Committee on Trade
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel, Ranking Member McCrery, Chairman Levin, and Ranking Member Herger:

Thank you for your leadership over the past year in forging a new bipartisan consensus on U.S. trade policy. We were pleased to see this breakthrough result in Congressional approval of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement last year. We believe this consensus represents a positive step forward that can pave the way for consideration of the pending U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.

While thoughtful people disagree about whether Congress should approve the Colombia agreement, we believe these disagreements may best be acknowledged and addressed by the Committee on Ways and Means holding a public hearing on the agreement. Specifically, a number of stakeholders have raised concerns about the level of labor violence in Colombia.

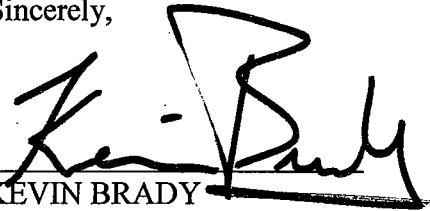
A full public hearing that focuses the attention of the Committee on the question of the level of labor violence in Colombia; the potential impact of the trade agreement on the obligation and ability of the Colombian Government to address the issue of labor violence; the broader impact of the agreement on businesses and workers in both the United States and Colombia; and the impact of the agreement on our long-term security interests would demonstrate the importance of these issues to the Committee.

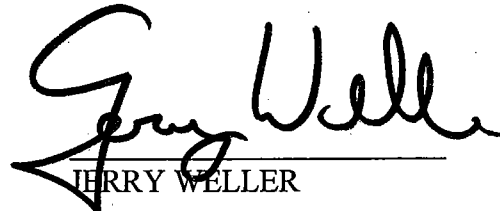
Such a hearing would allow for a full airing of the concerns of labor leaders in both the United States and Colombia and provide a venue for the Committee to signal its commitment to addressing these concerns. A hearing would further the spirit of bipartisanship established by the May 10th agreement in moving forward on a positive trade agenda that benefits workers and businesses in both countries.

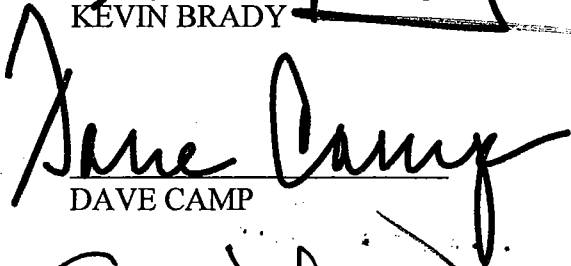
To address these important questions, to consider the concerns of our colleagues, and to hear the benefits others believe the agreement can offer, we urge you to begin the process of considering the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement by scheduling a hearing on the agreement as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

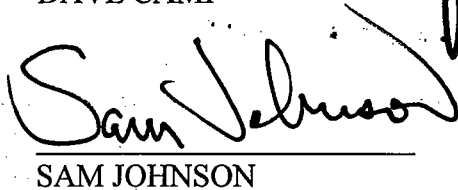
Sincerely,


KEVIN BRADY

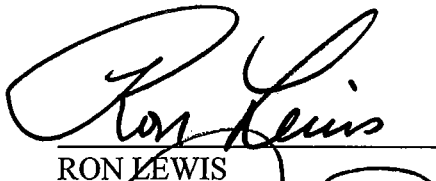

JERRY WELLER



DAVE CAMP

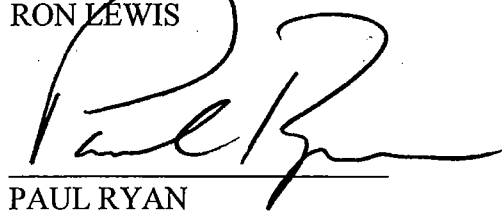

JIM RAMSTAD


SAM JOHNSON

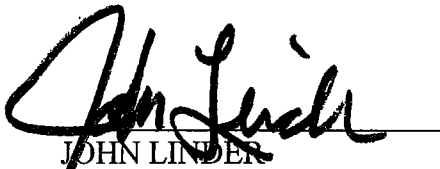

KENNY HULSHOF


RON LEWIS


THOMAS REYNOLDS


PAUL RYAN


ERIC CANTOR


JOHN LINDER


DEVIN NUNES


PATRICK TIBERI


JON PORTER